CHAPTER XXIX

THE DESCENT INTO ENGLAND 1

Legitimacy Desired for the Empire — The Pope's Conditions — The Festival at Boulogne — Position of Josephine — The Court at Aachen-^Pitt and the Continental Powers — France Defiant — The Feint against England — Napoleon's Naval Plans — Consolidation of his Sea-Power — Manoeuvers of his Fleet — Attempt to Mystify England — The Underlying Purpose — Napoleon's Own Statement — Corroborative Proof — Pitt's Prophecy — The "Descent" Impossible.

WHEN Pepin the Short asked Pope Zacharias in 752 whether the name or the fact made the legitimate king, the reply was, "He is king who has the power"; and in token of this doctrine it was the papal sanction which sealed the legitimacy of the Karlings in Boniface's crowning Pepin as king. Half a century later Pope Leo III, acting by an arrogated but admitted authority, likewise established their imperial dignity by setting the imperial crown on the head of Charles the Great. This event occurred on Christmas day of the memorable year 800. Early in May of the year 1804, a millennium later, word came that the occupant

1 References: the memoirs of pape Pie VII; Nicolay: Napo- Barante, Re*musat, Se*gur, Mac- Icon at the Boulogne Camp; donald, Thie*bault, Marbot, Bi- Wheeler and Broadley: Napoleon garre", the works of Roederer, the and the Invasion of England. Memorial of Norvins, the volumes Rose and Broadley: Dumouriez of Fauriel,Masson, d'Haussonville, and the Defence of England; and Welschinger, the Correspond- Rose: Napoleonic studies; Des- ence of Davout. Also, Fontaine et bri&re: Pro jets et tentatives de Percier:Sacrede NapoleonjArtaud de"barquement aux ties Britan- de Montor: Vie et Pontifical du niques.